

Application Number 10/534,438

Response to the Advisory Action mailed October 8, 2008 and the Office Action mailed July 10, 2008

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 4, 5, 7, 8 and 17-20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-3, 6, 9-16 are pending.

Applicants request that this amendment be entered because it puts the claims in condition for allowance. Following an interview with the Examiner on 14 October 2008, the Examiner indicated that if the claims were amended as indicated in the Allowable Subject Matter in the Examiner's Action mailed on 10 July 2008 finally rejecting the claims, the claims would be allowable. Using the claims as presented on 06 March 2008, Applicants have thus rewritten claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 7 and 8 wherein claim 8 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claim 1 now incorporates the limitations of claims 7 and 8 and is allowable and claims 7 and 8 are cancelled. As a result, claims 1-3, 11-16 are allowable.

The Examiner's Action mailed on 10 July 2008 also indicated that claims 9-10 were allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 9 is rewritten in independent form incorporating claims 5, 4, and 1. Claim 10 remains dependent upon claim 9. Claim 6, previously dependent upon claim 5, is amended to be dependent upon claim 9. Thus claims 6, 9, and 10 are allowable.

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Applicants having now included allowable subject matter into independent claims 1 and 9 request that the amendments be entered and that the case be passed to issuance. If there are minor issues to be resolved before the case is passed to issuance, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



Dated: November 3, 2008

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